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## BEVIN REVIEWS UNITED NATIONS WORK IN OPTIMISTIC SPEECH

### ALL WORLD READY TO CO-OPERATE WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

#### BRITAIN DOES NOT TIE HERSELF TO ANYBODY

London, Dec. 22.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Ernest Bevin, told the nation in a 15-minute radio address to-night that Britain did not tie herself to the United States or any other nation in forming foreign policy.

In an optimistic speech reviewing United Nations work in New York, Mr Bevin rebuked Party members, who, in his absence, had openly charged that Britain's alignment with the United States and against Russia might provoke a third world war.

Mr Bevin emphasised his belief that Russia had realised in the New York meetings that "there is throughout the world readiness to co-operate with her and see her develop her system in her own way with the recognition that others equally have the right to their own way of life."

United Nations machinery operated effectively in New York, Mr Bevin said, but to make the organisation effective in future, worldwide disarmament would be needed, together with a mental state of peace among all the world's peoples. He added that the world's natural resources must be made available to all.

The Foreign Minister said the lengthy New York sessions had been a "very trying time, but I am glad patience triumphed and I am fully convinced understanding will grow." Turning to the German problem, Mr Bevin said "We have made a practical beginning toward solution by fusing the British and American zones." However, he warned that it would take at least a generation to get things right.

At the Moscow conference on March 10, Mr Bevin said we must avoid the creation of a cesspool of cheap and half-starved labour in Middle Europe.

Mr Bevin praised Britain's contribution to the formation and progress of the United Nations and said Britain "will still take her place as a great Power."

"For the war left two great powers preponderant—the United States and Soviet Russia," stated Mr Bevin. "Great Britain is midway in geography and in way of life."

Mr Bevin also praised the contributions of France and China to the United Nations and asked: "Can anyone believe that if five great Powers live in concord and harmony

and are helped by smaller Powers, who are contributing their energies and their hope, war is possible at all?"

"You have all heard allegations that we joined too closely in our policies with the United States," said Mr Bevin. "That our relations with Soviet Russia were not so close as they should be, and that this course will retard pacification of the world and may lead to another war."

"My first answer to these allegations is that Great Britain brings her mind to bear on every problem. She does not tie herself to anybody except in regard to her obligations under the Charter, and I think what I have said about our policies shows that we have a mind and purpose of our own."

"My second answer is that we hold out a hand of friendship and co-operation to all, for we believe profoundly that such friendship and co-operation between great Powers is the surest basis on which to build peace for all time...remember the peace-makers are building—not only for this generation, but for generations yet to come."

Mr Bevin said the stumbling block at the formation of the United Nations was the surprise and lack of confidence caused by new scientific developments, such as the rocket, atomic energy and "with the perfection, though not used, of bacteriological warfare and other devices."

Referring to the veto power, Mr Bevin expressed assurance that his proposed end of conduct would be adopted in practice as a modification of the veto. He pledged that the British would "construct the whole of our future relations with the world on the basis of the United Nations."

"It is of prime importance to us for our future security and development that this instrument should be effective and should give us and the rest of the world the security for which generations of humanity have been yearning."—United Press.

## VIET NAMHSE GOVT FLEES FROM HANOI

Saigon, Dec. 22.

The Viet Namh Government fled from Hanoi on December 19 and the following morning French troops occupied the residence of Dr Ho Chi Minh, President of the Viet Namh independence group and Prime Minister of the native government, dispatches received revealed to-day.

The French Commissioner, Sainteny, was wounded by extremists while he was riding in an armoured car to consult with General Moriere, Commander of the French troops in Indo-China. Two persons riding in the car with Sainteny were killed.

Moriere, who has been acting as interim commissioner, in a proclamation to the populace compared the Viet Namh attack with that of the Japanese against Pearl Harbour. The edict informed the citizenry that Ho Chi Minh's government had fled from Hanoi and said the French authorities were "obliged" to return order and reassure the populace of security. This proclamation also provided for the establishment of martial law and a curfew from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Moriere said no person would be allowed to carry arms without authorisation of the security service in the troubled area. Casualties

among the French were estimated at 20 killed and 80 wounded while several hundred Annamites were reported killed and much property damaged by the fighting.—United Press.

#### Heavy Fighting Breaks Out

Paris, Dec. 22.

Annamite troops threw themselves against French positions throughout northern Indo-China with renewed fury to-day, but the colonial troops thus far have been able to retain their emplacements, according to a French News Agency report from Hanoi.

The heaviest fighting was said to be centred in the towns of Ban Ninh and Phu Lang-Thuong, 45 miles south-west of Hanoi. The dispatch said the French troops were holding their own at all three points, with French casualties placed at 30 killed and 100 wounded. In addition a certain number of European and

(Continued on Page 4)

### Pope Pius Denounces Negators Of God

Vatican City, Dec. 22.

Pope Pius XII to-day told a crowd of more than 200,000 Romans who gave him the loudest ovation since his coronation seven years ago that they must "redouble their fight" for Christ and their Church against the wicked now heaping "mud" on the throne of Peter in an Italian anti-clerical campaign.

Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd, which unprecedentedly interrupted his 12-minute address 20 times, the Pontiff exhorted the anti-clericals as "wicked negators of God, profaners of the divine church and idolaters of the senses" who are staining the "See of Peter with mud."

When the Pope called on the massive crowd to redouble its energy in the struggle between the two opposed camps, "one for Christ and one against Christ," scores of thousands of Italians interrupted in unison with a shout "for Christ, for Christ."

In his short address the Pontiff touched upon the first glorious beginnings of the Church under St Peter and upon Rome's liberation in the late war. He reached the high point of his address in again referring to the anti-clerical campaign by affirming that the word of God and the religious conquests of the people by the Roman Catholic Church had proved "more important than domination carried out by the sword and legions of the Caesars."

The great demonstration was the Eternal City's answer to the anti-clerical editorials, jokes and cartoons which have been distributed throughout Italy by three small weeklies—Il Mercante, Il Pollo and Don Basilio—which have a total circulation of about 200,000 copies.

The Vatican communicated the editors of Don Basilio recently, but this did not suspend the publication. The editor of Il Pollo faces trial to-morrow on charges of publishing obscenity.

The St Peter's demonstration, prompted by Catholic lay newspapers, by pamphlets and by Catholic organisations throughout Italy, was the climax of Catholic Italy's strong reaction to the anti-clericalism which began two months ago.

The demonstration began with the first open air low mass at St Peter's since the war and, with the pageantry of religious orders, the silver trumpets, the mass rites by the faithful and the attendance it was the biggest celebration in Rome since the ovations for the present Pontiff immediately after his elevation.—United Press.

### Death Sentence For Escapes From Alcatraz

San Francisco, Dec. 22.

A Federal Court jury returned a verdict of guilty and death for two Alcatraz federal prisoners, convicted charged with murder in connection with the bloody uprising at the prison in May.

They are Miran E. Thompson, aged 29, Texas killer, doing 99 years for killing a policeman and Sam Shockey, aged 30, of Oklahoma, a bank robber. The third convict on trial was Clarence Carnes, aged 10, of Oklahoma, kidnap slayer, found guilty, but the jury recommended life imprisonment. He was already serving a 99-year sentence.

Five men were killed in the prison riot—two guards and three convicts.—Associated Press.

### GESTAPO CHIEF IN SERBIA TO HANG

London, Dec. 22.

General August Meisner, the former chief of the German Gestapo in Serbia was among the nine high-ranking German officials from the Gestapo sentenced to be hanged by Belgrade Military Tribunal to-day for their responsibility for the death of 5,000 persons during the occupation, according to Belgrade radio. Nine other high Gestapo officials were sentenced to be shot.—Reuter.

### Indian Congress Discusses Provinces Issue

New Delhi, Dec. 22.

The Congress Working Committee to-night decided that reference of the grouping of the provinces controversy to the Federal Court, as suggested by Britain, was "in the present circumstances not called for."

Their present intention was to consider the latest developments and give such directions as it may deem fit.

The All-India Congress Committee will meet on May 5, it was authoritatively learned to-night.

The Working Committee, in a statement to-day, said: "For some time past the attitude of the British Government and of their representatives in India has been such as to add to the difficulties and complexities of the situation in the country."

In Lahore, hundreds of bearded, turbaned Sikhs demonstrated outside the palace of Sir Ranbir Rajendra Singh, 67-year-old Maharajah of Jind, a small Indian state in Punjab.

The demonstration began after Sirdar Paltan Singh, prominent Sikh leader, had begun a "East Unto Death" as a protest against the Maharajah's failure to introduce responsible government and to secure greater representation for Sikhs in the Council of Ministers and state services.

From Bombay comes the report that five people died and eight were injured as the result of stabbings in Bombay city to-day, the Bombay Government announced to-night.

According to another Government statement one person died in central Police fired four rounds in central

throwing mobs. One junior police officer was hit by stones.—Reuter.

#### Gandhi's Denial

Shirampur, Eastern Bengal, Dec. 22.

Gandhi to-day denied the rumour that he "is planning an India-wide Satya Raha (non-violence resistance movement) to achieve Hindu-Muslim unity."

He told a questioner at a prayer meeting: "My mission to Noakhali (Eastern Bengal) is to restore peace and bring about understanding between the two communities, and this cannot be compassed through Satya Raha."—Reuter.

### WAVELL ON WAY BACK

Cambridge, Dec. 22.

The Viceroy, Viscount Wavell, who flew to London with the four Indian leaders for conversations with the Government, left Basingstoke Royal Air Force station near Cambridge to-day to return to India.—Reuter.

### EGYPT FAVOURS PAKISTAN

Cairo, Dec. 22.

Mohamed Hussein Helikal Pasha, leader of the Liberal Constitutional Party and President of the Egyptian Senate said that Moslems in Egypt "strongly support the Pakistan plan" for India, and admitted Mohamed Ali Jinnah's struggle to achieve it.—Associated Press.

### PLANE CRASHES INTO SHED

Paris, Dec. 22.

Nine people were injured, three of them seriously, when a French military plane taking off from an airfield near Toulouse to-day crashed into a shed and caught fire.—Reuter.

### WEIZMANN RE-ELECTED

Basel, Dec. 22.

By 89 votes to 30, the powerful World Union of Poale Zion—the Jewish Socialist Labour group at the World Zionist Congress here to-day declared in favour of re-electing Dr Chaim Weizmann as the president of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organisation.—Reuter.

### Earthquake Victims Huddle On Beaches

Tokyo, Dec. 22.

Thousands of Japanese driven from their homes huddled on beaches to avoid fires after the earthquake which rocked Japan, the Hama air base said to-night.

"Kushimoto" is three-fourths covered by water," said Captain W. G. Shora in reporting results of reconnaissance flights. "The water has receded and the pilots reported that the military detachments in the area waved to them to assure them that they were unharmed."

Captain Shora said that present reports indicated that no American personnel in the area were injured or dead. "Tanabe was hit by a tidal wave. It was beat up in general. Thousands of Japanese were on the beach."

"At Shingu half of the town was destroyed. The people were huddled on beaches. There they even had to blast out a row of houses as a firebreak."—Associated Press.

Stranded Americans

American forces by land and air went to the assistance of two groups of American soldiers stranded in wrecked towns in the centre earthquake and tidal wave zone as official Japanese figures pushed the death toll to 650. A total of 641 was

reported injured and an estimated 300,000 homeless on the basis of Home Ministry figures at noon.

Foot units of the 25th Infantry fought the disaster.

No word was available on the condition of another group of Americans believed to be stranded on the southern tip of Wakayama, which was in the centre of what was believed to be the worst damage. Americans and Japanese tried all day apparently without success to reach this flat coastal plain which was heavily hit by the tidal waves.

Army sources previously said that small American units in Shingu and Kushimoto had signalled they were safe to reconnaissance planes. There was no report previously that any Americans were in Tanabe where at one time 1,000 houses were reported inundated.

The Home Ministry casualty figures differed considerably from other reports, but so far were the only official figures. Army reconnaissance said its death toll was 480 and 500 injured. The Army said that prefectural authorities in the disaster area submitted reports totaling 408 dead and 421 injured. This was the first instance when Army figures exceeded any submitted by the Japanese.

The Japanese Kyodo news agency said that its tabulation totalled 655 dead, 574 injured, 76 missing on the basis of its compilation at noon which did not include casualties on the southern tip of Wakayama.—Associated Press.

### Egyptian Threat To Take Sudan's Case To UNO

Cairo, Dec. 22.

The Egyptian Premier, Mahmoud Fawzi, said to-day that Egypt "will not hesitate to submit the Sudan case to the United Nations Security Council if Britain stands in the way of Egypt's permanent unity with the Sudan under the Egyptian Crown."—Associated Press.

### REPARATIONS EXPECTATIONS IN MOSCOW

Moscow, Dec. 22.

The stenographic text of the proceedings in the recent session of the Supreme Soviet, which adopted Soviet Union's 1946-47 budget, shows that Russia expects to receive 12,000,000,000 roubles (about \$2,202,000,000) reparations during the fiscal year.

The income side of the budget provides for total receipts of 12,000,000,000 roubles. In compensation to the Soviet Union for damages inflicted by military operations and occupation of Soviet territory and in special incomes.

There was no explanation of "special incomes" in the text.—Associated Press.

## UNO NEARING NEW DISPUTE OVER PRINCIPLES OF UNITED STATES ATOM PLAN

Lake Success, Dec. 21.

Members of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission to-day appeared to be nearing a new dispute over the principles underlying the United States plan for atomic control.

The argument—based on the differences between the United States and Canada—is expected to break out when the 12-nation Atomic Energy Commission meets on December 27 as a Committee of the whole.

At that time the Commission—on orders it wrote for itself—will (1) consider how to write into the forthcoming report principles on which the United States plan was based; and (2) tell the United Nations Security Council that its forthcoming negotiations on the atomic control machinery must be ruled by those principles.

United States spokesmen, reportedly supported by the majority of the 12 delegates, made clear that they interpreted this to mean the Commission had accepted the entire United States plan.

Canada has served notice that it will fight the United States' interpretation of the Commission's decision. It may be recalled that the Canadian compromise resolution was adopted 10-0—with Russia refusing to vote and Poland abstaining.

Canada maintains that the principles upon which the United States plan was based do not mean the same thing as the principles of the United States plan.

Another stumbling block in the path of the United States plan is the insistence that veto power in the Security Council be eliminated when the Council takes up cases involving the punishing of a nation guilty of violating the atomic treaty.

Russia has given no sign that it will modify its unqualified opposition to lessening the veto power.—United Press.

#### British Instructions

New York, Dec. 21.

Sir Alexander Cunningham, Britain's delegate to the United Nations, is reported to have received instructions from London to use all possible means to gain Soviet co-operation and avoid a split among the Big Five nations.

A brisk debate is expected when the Atomic Commission's Political Committee begins studying the question of the veto in connection with the punishment of violators of atomic treaties.

Delegates to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission were divided on Saturday over the meaning of Friday's action on atomic control.

A spokesman for the Canadian delegation said that the Dominions amendment contained a provision that the Security Council must conform to the philosophy of the world arms reduction proposal approved last week by the General Assembly.

This recommended that the enforcement of arms limitation should be under the Security Council, where the use of the veto was permissible. The United States delegation contended, however, that this did not prevent the Security Council from agreeing not to use the veto on atomic matters, while others pointed out that the General Assembly had rejected amendments to restrict the use of the veto.—Associated Press.

## AMERICAN INTEREST IN PHILIPPINES PROBLEMS

Manila, Dec. 22.

Reporting on a highly successful and fruitful mission and giving assurances that it was neither because of neglect nor unconcern on the part of leaders of the American government, but because of the "huge flood of problems pouring through channels which have a limited capacity," that pressing Philippine problems were slow in coming to a decision, the U.S. Ambassador, Mr Paul V. McNutt, to-day addressed an audience of approximately 1,000 persons from all walks of life which had come to the Manila Hotel to welcome the returning diplomat.

Mr McNutt said he found the United States official and private circles bewildered and astonished at the impressions received here concerning relations between the American and Filipino peoples.

Press accounts and inaccurate information have given the impression that America is no longer loved in the Philippines and that the Filipino people look upon Americans with chill, hostility and resentment.

Mr McNutt said he told the American people as well as President Truman, the Secretary of State, Mr James F. Byrnes and other high officials of the American Government that the recent impression they had received about the Philippines was utterly without foundation.

Dwelling on conversations with Republican leaders, Mr McNutt declared that all of them gave assurances there would be no partisanship in consideration of the Philippine problems.

Regarding military bases Mr McNutt revealed that after his conferences with top military leaders and with ranking policy officials any United States decision arrived at would greatly assist in the early satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with the Philippine Government on the subject.—United Press.

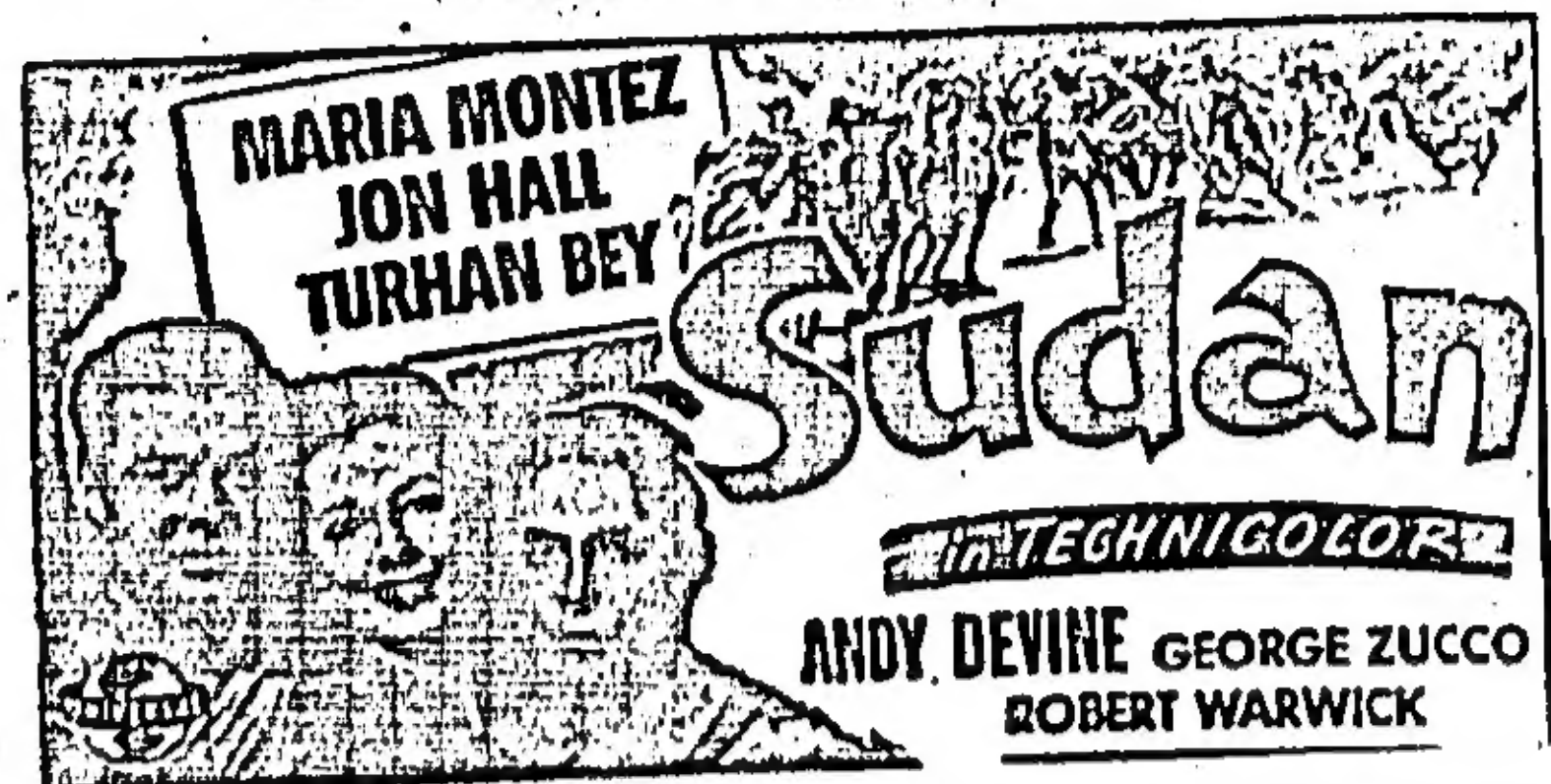


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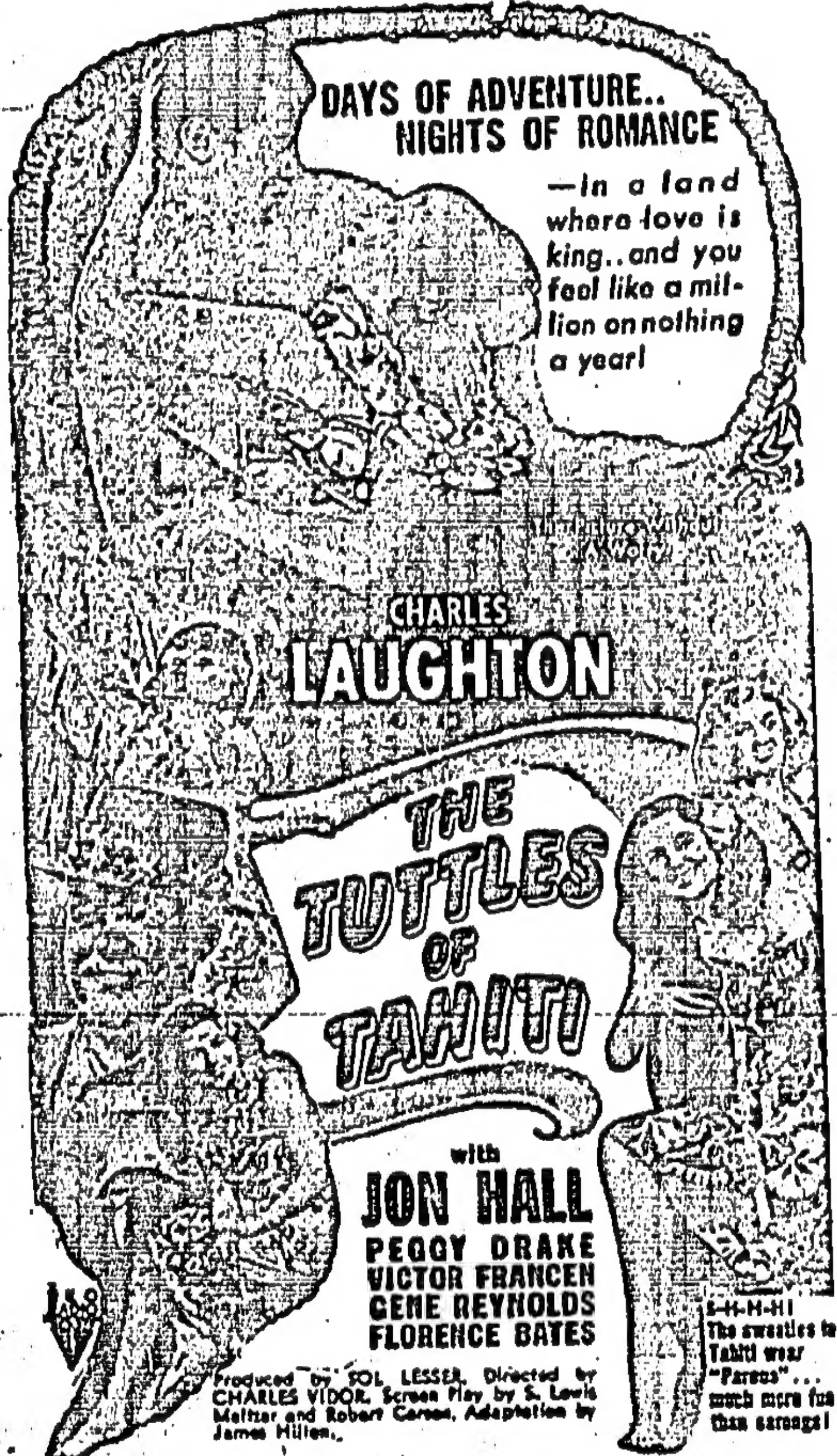
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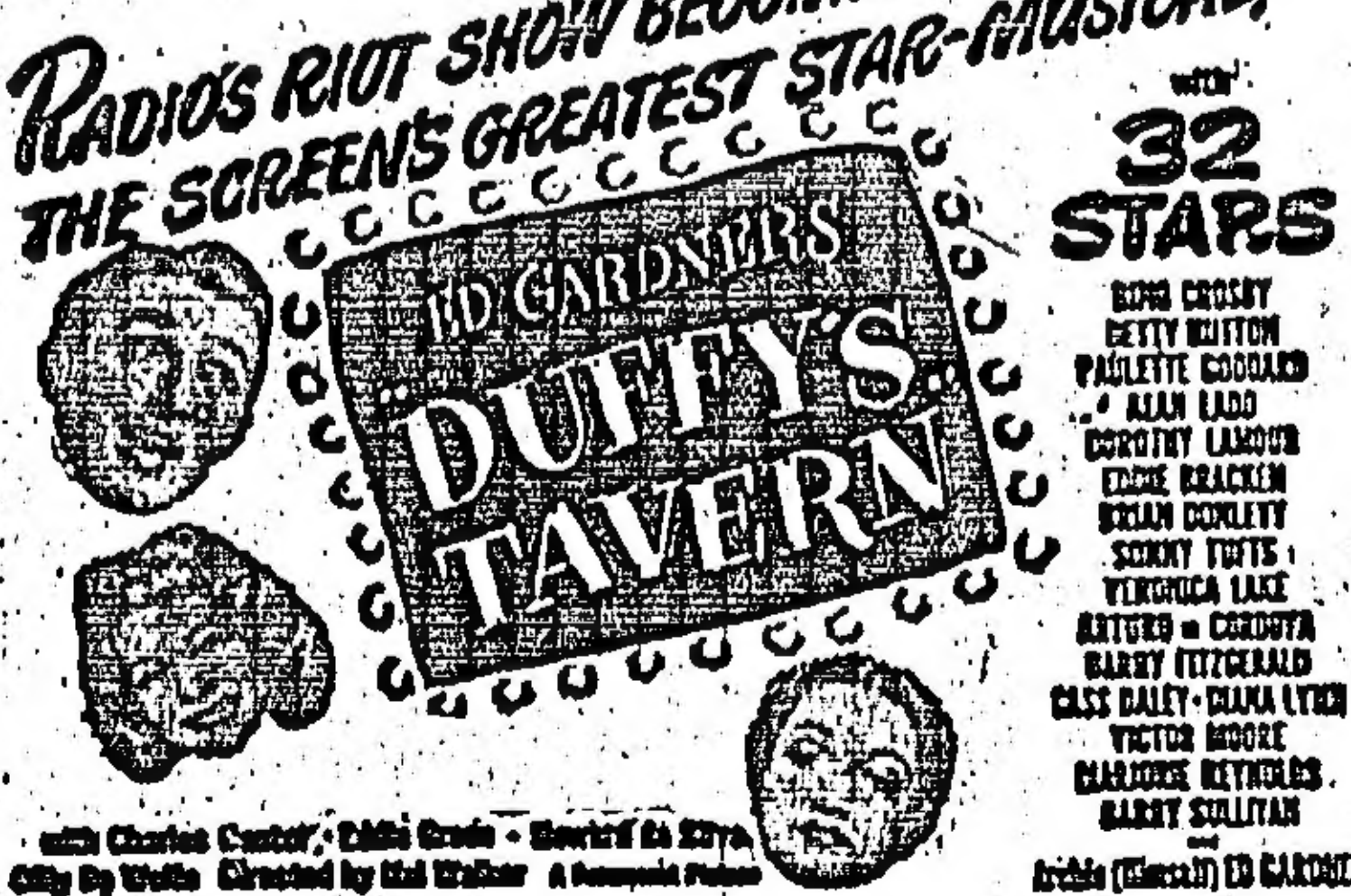
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## "A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

—from 'Monty'

The following Christmas message to the troops is from Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Chief of the Imperial General Staff:



"ON this Christmas Day, the second since the end of World War II, let us look back with gratitude on the great victories and other solid achievements which have been granted us. Let us also look forward with stern resolve and high optimism to the future and the tasks which still confront us. 'Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.' That is what we have been fighting for, that is what we desire: on earth peace, goodwill toward men. Christmas is the festival of the family, when we particularly think of our loved ones and friends; and in normal times we take the opportunity of gathering together with them. They are, indirectly, part of the Army: in that their faithful courage and fortitude are essential to the morale of the Army itself. And so this Christmas 1946, I send to every officer and man, and to your families wherever they may be, my best wishes and my Christmas Greetings. Let us look forward to the future with confidence, and with the firm determination of every man to do his duty."

## UNITED NATIONS

## Better Feeling All Round

by

J.M. ROBERTS, Jr

Associated Press Staff Writer

FOR over ten months of 1946 the Foreign Ministers Council and the United Nations gave cause for little except pessimism.

For each step forward, there seemed to be a step back. Russia seemed determined to turn international conferences into mere forums for propaganda. Britain's Prime Minister went to Paris in the summer for what he termed "one last effort" to get the Russians to co-operate. Little seemed to come out of it.

The Paris conferences and first weeks of the New York conferences seemed merely to emphasise the cleavage between Russia and the English-speaking countries. Then four weeks ago Russia began to show signs of softening. She decided that once a disarmament plan was set up she would not demand the right to veto the decisions of its enforcement agencies. She compromised on Trieste, on freedom of Danube traffic and other matters.

HAVING proposed general disarmament, she actually began demobilising her vast army of occupation in Europe. She took some defeats, such as on her efforts to have all United Nations members break relations with Franco Spain and to secure a census of armies on foreign soil, with better face than heretofore and with no "walk-outs" by her delegates.

She displayed an apparent willingness to lose her political position in Persia's province of Azerbaijan rather than stir up another hornet's nest over it. Determined action by the Central Government at Teheran apparently wiped out, within a few days and with minimum of fighting, the Soviet-sponsored Azerbaijan local government, and reopened the province which had been virtually cut off from the rest of Persia since Russian occupation during the war.

REASONS for the new attitude and whether it would last, of course, formed the subject of much speculation. Some United Nations delegates pointed out that Russia needed in her fields and factories the troops with which she had been backing her military diplomacy abroad, needed financial help from abroad for her five-year plan, and also had found that her previous attitude was building up an unprofitable resentment against her.

There are also some who hope that Russia's diplomats have, through continued association, begun to feel more trustful of the West.

On the question of whether the new Russian attitude would last also depends much of the value of other developments during the New York meetings. Principal among them is the disarmament resolution. Through it the General Assembly asks the Security Council to decide what should be done, set up controls and inspection of machinery and establish a United Nations police force.

RUSSIA can agree to the safeguards which the United States feels she must have before she can turn atomic energy over to the rest of the world. Or Russia can be so jealous of her own sovereignty, so fearful of foreign inspection, so sure that the United States will not turn the bomb against her in any foreseeable period that she will block the necessary moves. The first test on this is likely to come in the Atomic Commission's sessions within the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere of deep-seated, even though unvoiced, pessimism which surrounded the opening of the New York conferences has given way to hope, even though it is still somewhat restrained.

## According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1946, by Ely Culbertson)

The declarer safeguarded his contract in to-day's deal through a very simple manoeuvre.

East, dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦ 8 7 6 5  
♥ K Q 8 2  
♦ A 10 4  
♣ 3 4

**WEST**  
♠ 5 2  
♥ 8 7 5  
♦ 8 6 2  
♣ J 8 8 6 2

**EAST**  
♠ A 3 10 9  
♥ K Q 8 3  
♦ K Q 8 3  
♣ K 10 5 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ A K Q J 10 9  
♥ 6 4  
♦ J 7  
♣ A 7

The bidding:  
North: 1 heart, 2 spades, 3 hearts, 4 spades.  
West: 1 heart, 2 spades, 3 hearts, 4 spades.  
East: 1 heart, 2 spades, 3 hearts, 4 spades.

South was short about one winner for his jump spade bid, but the solidity of his suit compensated largely for this stretch. As a rule this type of overall requires eight winners because it invites a raise from partner on less than would be

needed for a voluntary raise. (If partner has three winners he is not apt to require urging to enter the auction.)

West opened his top card in his partner's heart suit, and East captured the queen. The heart jack was returned; the king won and declarer then ruffed a heart before drawing two rounds of trumps.

The obvious danger on the hand, of course, was losing two diamond tricks. Many players holding the precise spots in diamonds held by South, would try a repeated finesse against the two missing honours, on the theory that mathematically the odds strongly favour that either the king or queen, or both, will lie under the A-10-x. In this case, however, with East having opened the bidding, South was not satisfied with any such percentages. He decided to play East for all the missing high cards. To that end, South let the diamond jack ride, and when East won and exited with his last high heart, South made him a present of the trick, discarding a diamond from his own hand. Now East had the unpleasant choice of returning a diamond to dummy's tenace, or a club away from the king. When he decided in favour of the latter play, South of course ducked, and dummy's queen won the trick.

The Balkans again  
are aflame

There have been indications that the guerrilla war in Northern Greece has been intensified, on both sides, to a state which threatens international complications. It has been proposed in the United Nations Security Council that a commission of investigation be sent to examine the situation on the spot. The Greek war and the dangers to peace in the Adriatic are here described by

ERIC BENNETT

WHILE the Foreign Ministers of the four Great Powers are debating peace treaties, there is a full-scale war being fought by four nations on the Greek frontier, and 450 miles of sea coast which is an embattled menace to the ships of all nations.

I have just returned from the battlefield.

The fighting in Greece is not merely an internal struggle between Government troops and Left-wing extremists. The Greek rebels are based in Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

## Guns manned

NO war has been declared between the nations, but battles are being fought, men are being killed, and neutrals, including British citizens, are being murdered on the mined roads.

An even greater danger to international peace is the Adriatic from Trieste to Corfu.

Constant batteries, fully manned by Yugo-Slav or Albanian soldiers, threaten shipping that comes within range of the shore.

Captains and navigators of vessels sailing along the narrow mine-swept channels of the Adriatic, marked on the charts as safe international routes, keep their fingers crossed, because they never know when they will hit a brand-new mine in the middle of the fairway.

The hazards of the Adriatic in our present so-called peacetime are worse than they were during the war.

## Out of the blue

IN the war our ships knew they might be in for trouble and roughly where to expect it. Now there is officially no danger, but death comes out of the blue.

A few weeks ago I was in Corfu, and with a party of British naval officers was invited to cross to the mainland for a wild boar hunt.

A Greek—naval—motor launch picked us up at three o'clock in the morning, and we set sail southwards through Greek territorial waters.

Before we cleared Corfu roads the captain of the launch ordered the oerlikon, the bofors and the machine-guns to be loaded. I asked him why.

"We had two men killed last week, and another the week before," he answered grimly.

"Who fired on you?"

He jerked his head northwards.

"Albanian patrol boat. It is a regular thing."

## Trained on us

THE next afternoon I stood on the bridge of a British cruiser as we steamed up an international channel past the Albanian coast.

The tension of that trip was one of the most awesome experiences I have ever known.

On the shore three mobile batteries of 4.5in. guns, manned by crews of Albanian soldiers, were trained on us. On the bridge, and throughout the ship, every British sailor was at action stations, wearing steel helmets.

Although our six-inch guns were still trained fore and aft, the hoists were loaded.

Blank tubes had been fired to ensure that the turrets were ready for action, and we were prepared to answer from the shore within 30 seconds.

## Struck a mine

WHEN we were at the nearest point to the Albanian coast a machine-gun on shore fired a couple of short bursts.

I was standing next to the gunnery officer, and I said to him: "Guns, any second now you may be firing."

The captain, in front of me, murmured: "How right you are!"

Then the tension broke. It broke with a burst of flame when the destroyer Saumarez, steaming ahead of us, struck a mine in the middle of the swept passage.

Less than two hours later the destroyer Volage hit another. There was no naval battle that day, but the British Navy suffered a defeat.

Forty-three British sailors were killed. They were not the victims of an accident; they were killed by a deliberate act of warfare.

In spite of protests from the Albanians, we sent minesweepers in to clear that channel, which had been previously cleared and certified free of danger.

That has been publicly stated.

What has not been stated is that the tension was so great and the danger to British sailors so real that the minesweepers were not only escorted by destroyers, but were escorted by two cruisers and an aircraft carrier.

Twenty-two mines of German manufacture were hauled out of that channel.

It is reasonably certain from which neighbouring country they were obtained.

## We were lucky

ONLY the men on the spot realised that we were lucky to get away with the loss of 43 men and two destroyers, one of which is almost a total wreck.

We might easily have lost two cruisers as well.

Many more of us narrowly escaped the fate of the men who were burned to death in blazing oil beneath the decks of the Saumarez or those who died more peacefully and are now at rest beneath the lovely trees of the British cemetery in Corfu.

Later we sailed up the Adriatic to Trieste.

We were warned before we sailed that at certain points on the Dalmatian coast Yugo-Slav battery commanders might signal "Stop, or I fire."

We saw the batteries, but they let us go by unharmed. The whole coast is armed and ready for war. On the island of Brioni, a few miles away from the Yugoslav coast, the woods are thick with Yugo-Slav batteries.

We could pick out their camouflaged hide-outs, and we could watch through binoculars the sentries watching us.

Brioni guards the entrance to the port of Pola, where a brigade of British guards is maintaining international order, behind a tangle of the Morgun line.

In the Trieste area American and British troops while away their time in exercises, and up in the stony mountains a few miles away the Yugo-Slav outposts watch and wait for the port which they intend to be theirs—sooner or later.

## I wonder...

ANYTHING can happen in this area at any moment, and whatever does happen is not likely to further the cause of peace. The captain of a British minesweeper which put into Trieste said to me:

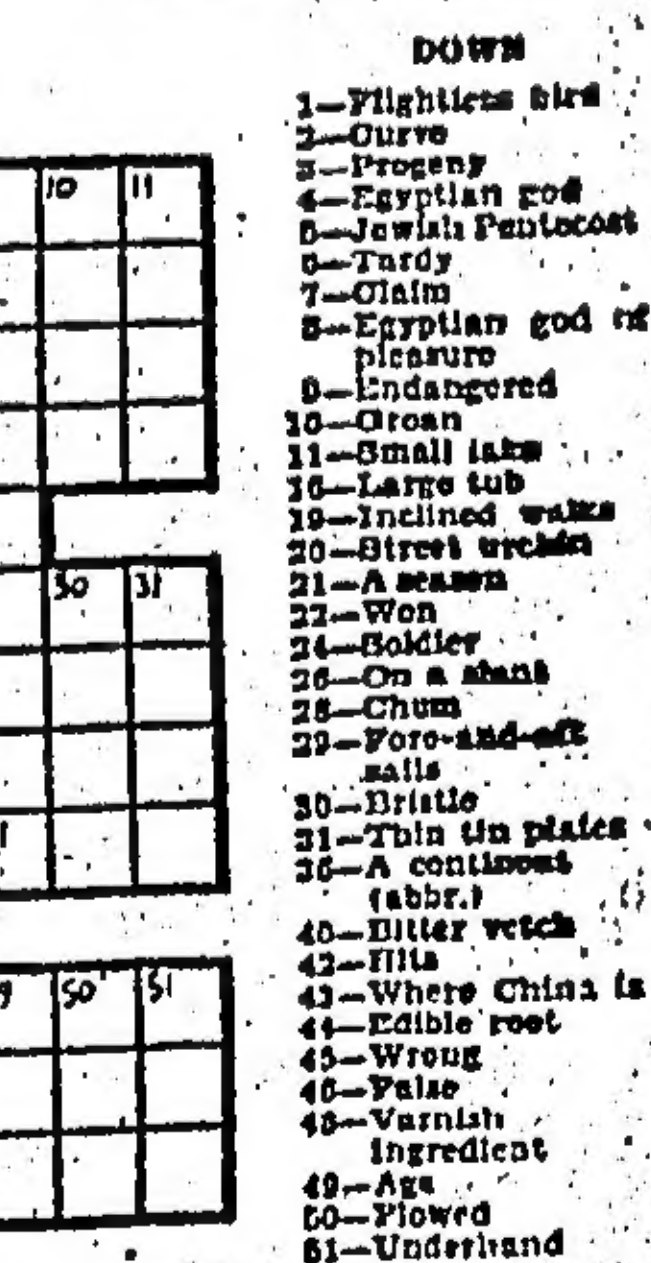
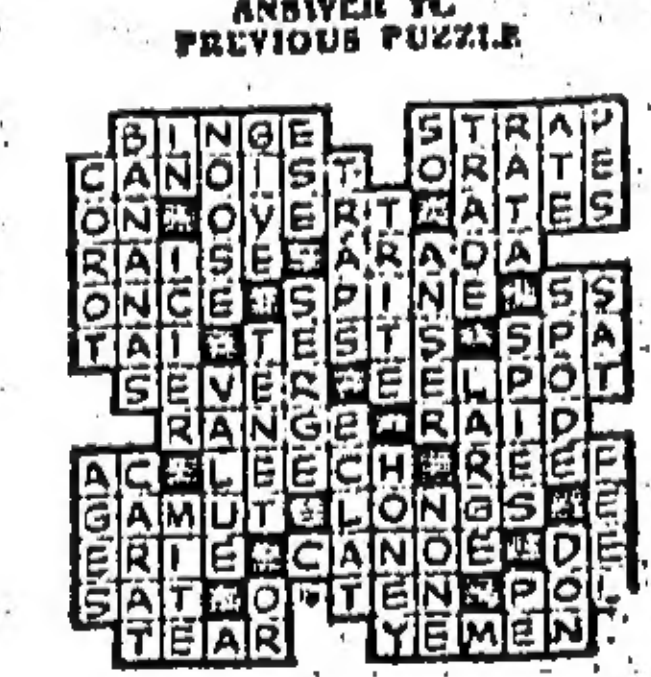
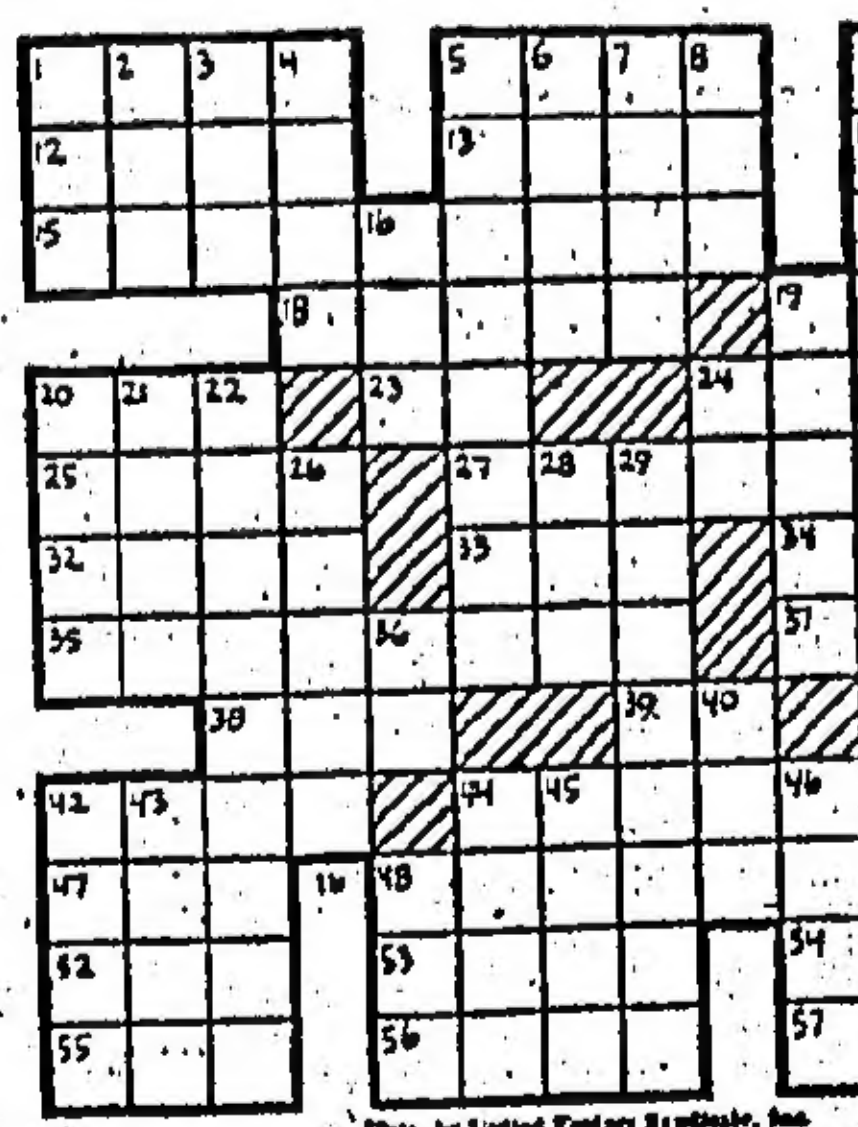
"Saw a curious thing the other day. A Yugo-Slav fishing boat sailing down the coast with a brand-new mine on board. We know it was new, because I went alongside and had a good look. Now I wonder what they were going to do with that?"

When it comes to the Adriatic battle-front your guess is as good as mine.

## Crossword Puzzle

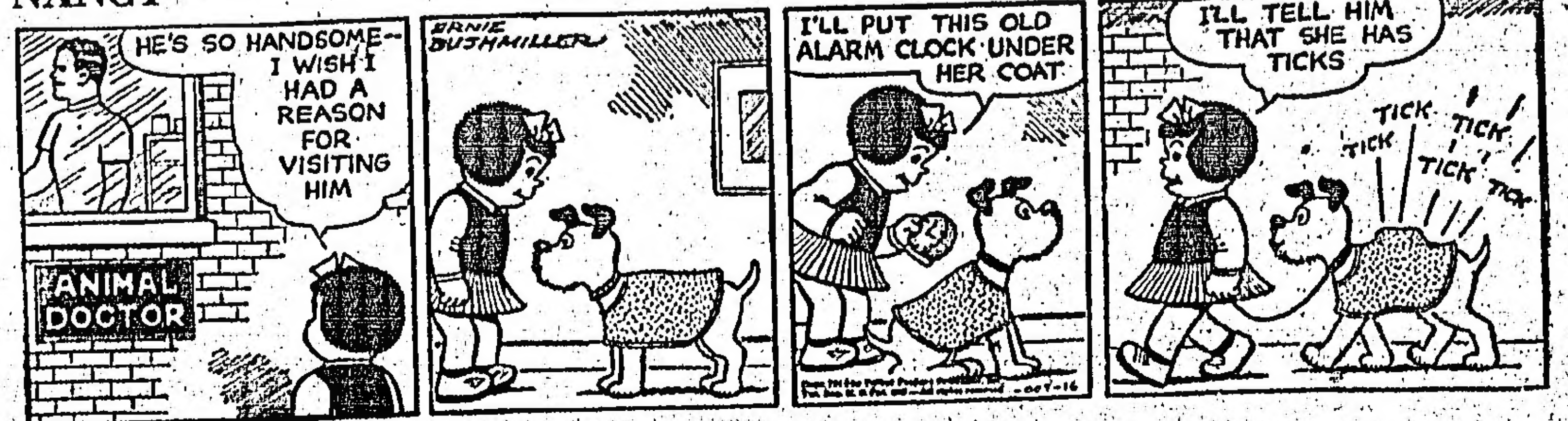
ACROSS  
1—Pagan priest  
2—Flat stone  
3—Pine  
4—Africa-bearing  
5—Cattle  
6—Cow's call  
7—Move to action  
8—Bullies  
9—Bored  
10—Burst  
11—Crest  
12—"Et...Brute"  
13—Aria  
14—Hoofed cat  
15—Killed  
16—Gallus

DOWN  
17—Petition  
18—Dejectedly  
19—British team  
20—Modern Language  
21—Association  
22—Compass point  
23—Danish  
24—Entranced  
25—Drops from eyes  
26—Shade tree  
27—Squanders  
28—Crest  
29—Bird cover  
30—Russian island  
31—Gloomy  
32—Mountain gaps  
33—Whole lot



By Ernie Bushmiller

## NANCY Also Camel Tendencies





## NEW ELECTRIC DEVICE TO HEAT & COOL HOMES

A device which extracts heat from the elements of air, water or earth to provide suitable year-round temperatures in homes and offices, has been developed for commercial use, reports Associated Press.

It is basically a larger edition of the familiar electric refrigerator, and is said to require no more attention than the refrigerator. The nearest electric light socket is the only source of energy needed.

It consists basically of a compressor, condenser, enclosed coiled pipe, a water radiator, a large amount of piping, a circulating fan and ducts and vents through which the warm air may circulate through the building.

Cold water is pumped from the house through piping buried deep in the earth. The higher temperature of the earth raises the temperature

of the water. As the water becomes warmer it is circulated back through coils of tubing surrounded by a refrigerant which absorbs the heat. This heated refrigerant then is pumped to the compressor, raising its temperature still further and is then piped to the radiator which warms the surrounding air.

The heat air—automatically controlled—is then blown through the house through the ducts and vents by the fan. For cooling, the process is reversed and heat is extracted from the air inside the house and pumped into the air outside.

## Moscow Attack On Turkey

Moscow, Dec. 22. Pravda to-day accused Turkish leaders of following risky anti-democratic policies based on "myths" of outside dangers invented by foreign imperialists and militarists. The most lengthy and outspoken commentary published in Russia about Turkey in a long time, the article said this militaristic policy was connected with increased interest of Turkish leaders in organizing "a bloc of Arabic countries with non-Arabic Turkey at the head of it."

(This was the first Russian reaction to Turkey's suppression of Pro-Soviet publications and organizations in the Bulgarian border and Dardanelles areas where the military carried out extensive arrests, the two-published eight leftist publications, outlawed two political parties and prohibited all "Communist" organizations.)

Pravda's commentator blamed what he termed the short-sighted internal and foreign policies of the Turkish Government for bringing about a crisis in the life of the nation. He said: "Whenever the Turkish leaders begin talking of a foreign policy they drag out the argument about 'foreign dangers' to Turkey. All sensible thinking Turks understand this 'foreign policy' is a myth invented by those who try to deceive people and conceal the real aims of their anti-democratic policy."—Associated Press.

HERE AGAIN SOON!  
**Lyon**  
STEEL  
**FOLDING  
CHAIRS**  
FOR  
SCHOOLS - INSTITUTIONS - CHURCHES  
HOTELS - CAFES - RESTAURANTS  
Scientifically  
Postured For  
COMFORT  
THESE FEATURES ASSURE  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
SAFETY  
APPEARANCE  
DURABILITY  
QUIETNESS  
EASE OF HANDLING

WORTH  
WAITING FOR

FULL PARTICULARS FROM

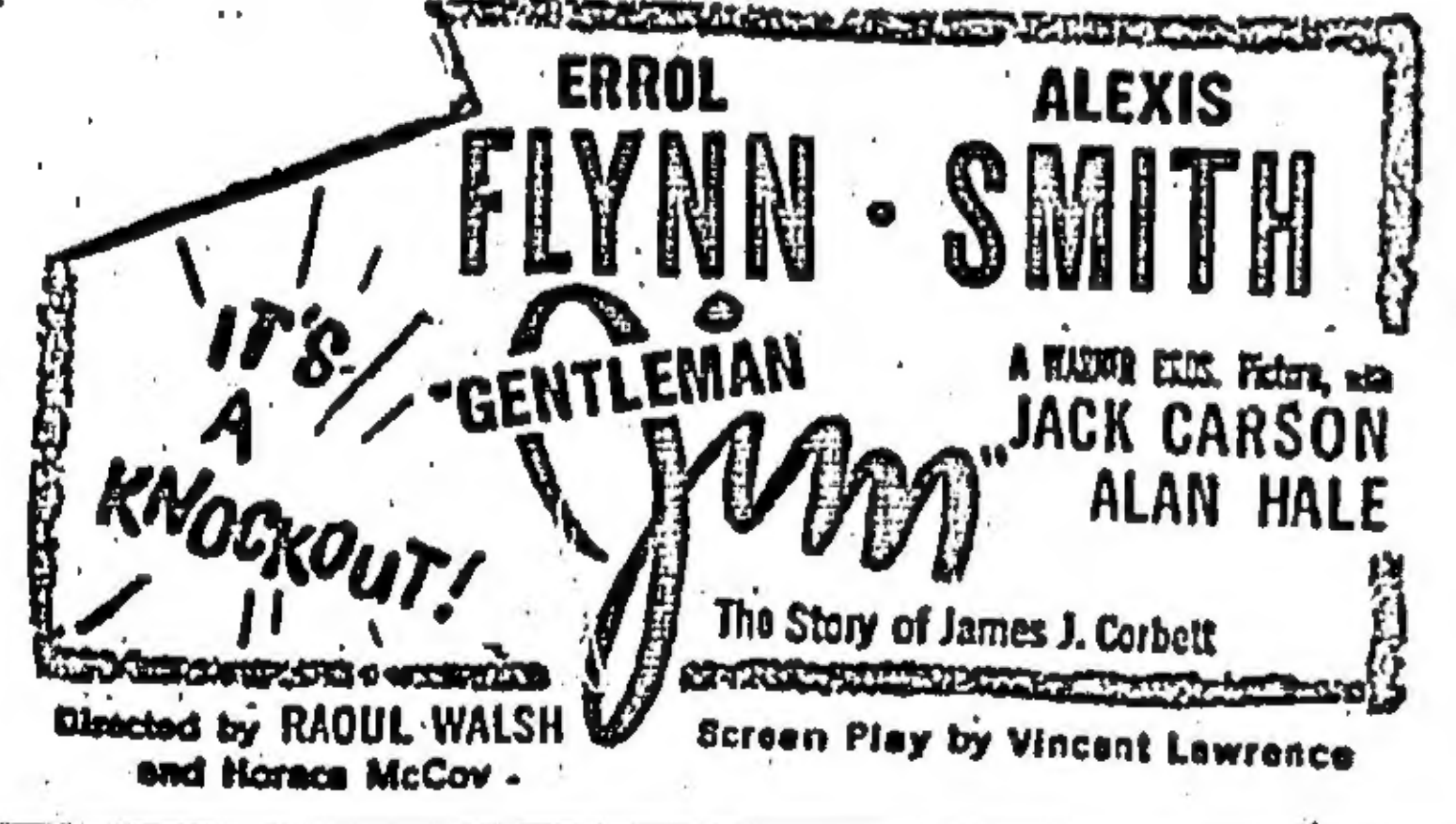
**Jones Wong & Co.**  
FURNITURE DEPT.  
802 B. E. A. Bldg. Tel. 24761

## THE THEATRE

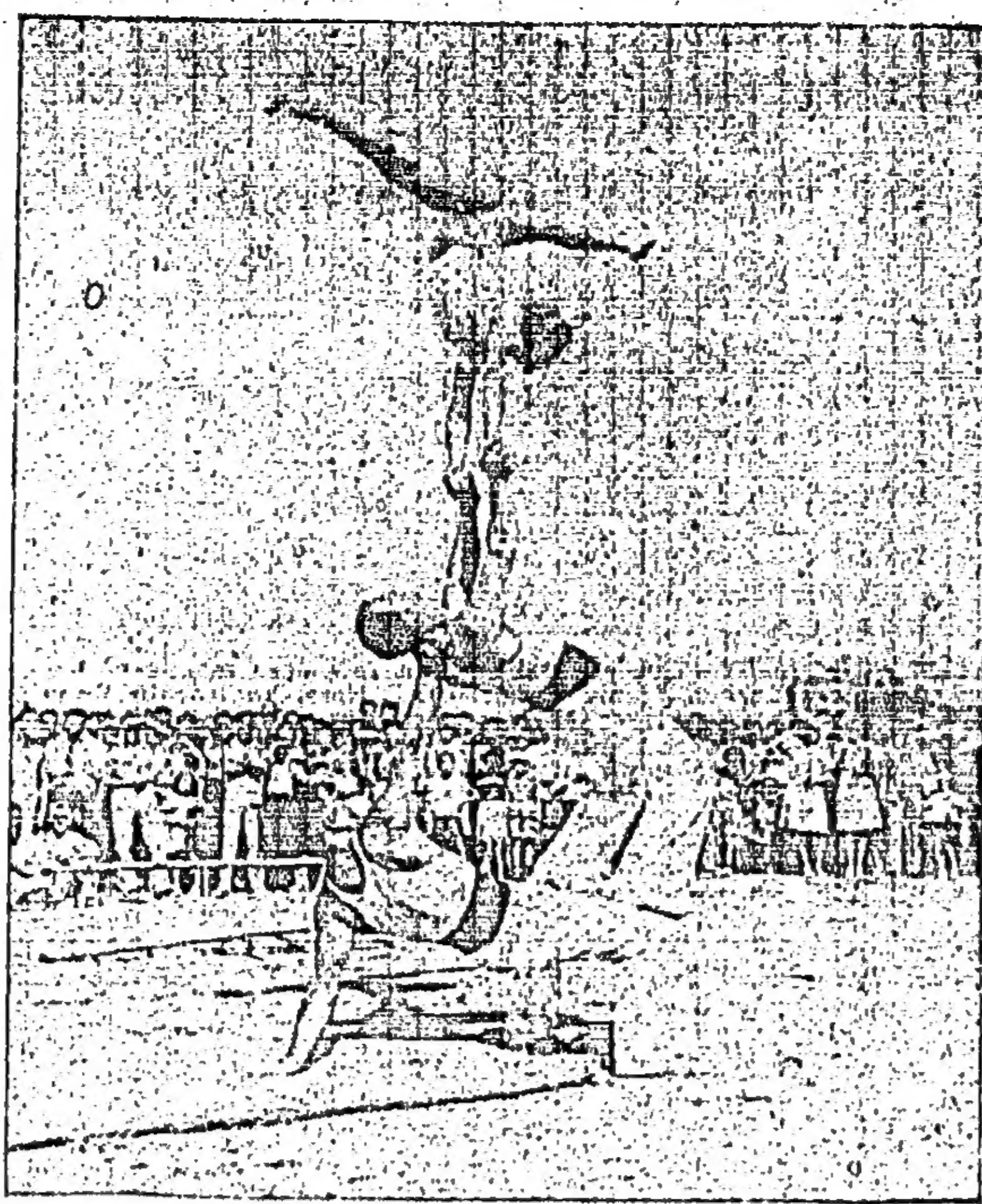
SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.10 & 9.15 P.M.



NEXT CHANGE



**ALHAMBRA**  
TO-DAY ONLY  
2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.



THIS is the Astor Trio, who will appear in cabaret turns during the coming holiday season at the Hongkong and Peninsula Hotels.

## MOST ADVANCED BRITISH JET AIRCRAFT ON VIEW

Britain unwrapped the most advanced jet plane ever built coincidentally with the formal opening to the public of a Supply Ministry array of jet gas turbine engines which officials said would prove that "Britain leads the world in the newest form of aircraft propulsion."

With cautiously worded statements the official spokesman described the jet propelled flying wing built by Armstrong Whitworth as the first of its type. Although most of its details are secret, he said that it is not overfast—its top speed is estimated at 550 miles per hour—adding that it is the

forerunner of a projected passenger transatlantic jet liner capable of making the crossing in three and a half hours.

The new plane is shaped like an arrowhead with wings swept back at about an angle of 45 degrees, says United Press. It is powered by two Rolls Royce NE-1 engines, with 5,000 pounds thrust, 12,500 revolutions per minute and weighing 1,500 pounds each. The plane has a wingspan of 92 feet and weighs 12 tons.

The aircraft is a research type costing £2,000,000 and was built in one record time of 12 months from plans ordered in 1943. The Supply Ministry spokesman denied that it was intended for transatlantic flights.

"It was built to no operational requirements," he said. He indicated it would be followed by a 100-ton extreme design jet liner which the ministry, which controls gas turbine and jet development in Britain, plans for the future.

## SOVIET TROOPS RETURN HOME IN NUMBERS

Moscow, Dec. 22. Indications that Soviet Russia is reducing her forces considerably in foreign countries was seen in the large numbers of demobilized soldiers returning daily from the West.

Soldiers are numerous in Moscow railroad station departing or passing on troop trains. Many say they are from Germany.—Associated Press.

## East Prussia Changes

Moscow, Dec. 21. The Pravda to-day said that many thousands of Russians have moved into East Prussia since occupation and great changes have taken place in the life of Koenigsberg—formerly Koenigsberg—capital of the province. The paper said that Soviet peasant immigrants are receiving houses without charge and are being granted building loans. It said that transportation from Russia to the province is provided free.—United Press.

## MOLOTOV IN MOSCOW

London, Dec. 21. M. Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister and M. Andrei Vyshinsky, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Moscow to-day, Moscow Radio reported.—Reuter.

## Correspondence

### Barristers and Solicitors

(To the Editor, H.K. Telegraph)

Sir,—In regard to Observer's letter concerning "Barristers and Solicitors" I must say that until I read his letter I did not realize what an inspection the present system of two separate branches of the legal profession is upon the public. Imagine, for example, if I was suffering from a disease requiring an operation and I go to Dr. A. whom I trusted and believed in and he tells me "I am sorry. Because of a defect in the profession, I cannot operate, but must engage Dr. B. to do so and you will have to pay both our charges."

It is high time that the public be given a fair break by amalgamation and by adoption of the Singapore system.

## LANCASHIRE NEWSLETTER

By Albert Clarke

A happy Christmas to all Lancastrians wherever you may be, from all in the Palatinate.

For some, probably many of you now reading this, it is your first Christmas abroad. This letter must of necessity be written many days before the festive season here, but as I write the first snow of winter is now being churned into nasty mud in the streets of Manchester. Whether it will be a white Christmas in Lancashire or not I cannot predict.

You, reading this, will probably have learned from the radio what we are enduring. Some people are inclined, despite the poor pools of the predicts, to blame the explosion of atom bombs for extraordinary weather we have failed to enjoy this year and some blame the puncturing of the stratosphere by the rocket experiments. Be this as it may, the weather at home this year has been in Army parlance—perfectly lousy.

Well now, I suppose you want to know what is happening in the homeland. It is in many respects the best Christmas since before World War II, broke upon us. Certainly better than last year if only because houses—temporary though they may be—are becoming available.

### Houses Going Up

Those of you who are Mancunians will be interested to know that a host of pre-fabs now occupy what used to be known as Alexandra Park flying ground, that expanse of land bordering Princess Road and Wilbraham Road. I passed there a few days ago and found that many are occupied. Very neat indeed they look with their pea-green, red, blue or orange front doors with curtains to match.

You may also like to know that some very attractive blocks of flats are now nearing completion near Hulme clearance site where the outbreak of war stopped building. They are three-storey in height and each flat has a sun verandah. I expect people will be moving in in a few weeks' time.

Another factor, or rather series of factors, which tend to make this Yule better than the last is the promise of plenty of turkeys and other poultry. Last year the black-marketeers turned their fingers badly in attempting to corner the market. It was probably a salutary lesson to them.

### More Supplies of Beer

Again liquor is likely to be a little more accessible. The beer shortage from which the country has been suffering since the cut in grain to the brewers was ordered is easing rapidly. In fact, we are virtually back to normal so far as supplies are concerned, though I will not say we are satisfied with the quality of blitzer now consumed.

It is probable we shall get some sort of a Christmas box from Mr Strachey, Minister of Food, in the way of a temporary relaxation on points goods for the festive season. Christmas shopping is not being left to the last minute this year, and with a fair amount of money in circulation and a better variety of things available business has been very brisk.

For the kiddies there are now quite a good selection of toys available. Many of them in the new very popular plastics, but prices are very stiff. It's quite an expensive headache choosing and buying presents for kiddies these days.

Yes, the folk at home, now wearing the post-war collar, will spend a brighter Christmas, no matter what the weather is like, than they have for a good many years.

## Allocations Of Fats And Oils

Washington, Dec. 22. The International Emergency Food Council has announced an agreement on an interim food programme for fats and oils, pending completion of the recommended allocations for 1947.

It said the programme was based on the agreed movement of fats and oils during the interim not to exceed 30 percent of the quantities expected to be available for the entire year. Each country is being advised of the total tonnages recommended for shipment during this period, together with an outline of distribution by kinds, sources and destinations.—United Press.

### NOTICE

Christmas Holidays  
There will be no issue of the "South China Morning Post" on Thursday and Friday December 26 and 27  
Publication will be resumed on Saturday, December 28.  
There will be no issue of "The Hongkong Telegraph" on Wednesday and Thursday December 25 and 26  
Publication will be resumed on Friday, December 27.

SHOWING TO-DAY **KINGS** AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

EXTRA PERFORMANCES ON WEDNESDAY 25TH AND THURSDAY 26TH AT 11.30 A.M.

**NEVER SUCH SCREEN MAGIC!**  
A thousand nights, a thousand delights in this romance of the East... where a beggar may become a prince... and a lovely dancing girl can flirt with destiny!

**M-G-M'S TECHNICOLOR TRIUMPH**

**RONALD COLMAN KISMET MARLENE DIETRICH**

**AN M-G-M PICTURE**

**JAMES CRAIG • EDWARD ARNOLD**  
**Hugh HERBERT • Joy Ann PAGE**  
**Florence BATES • Harry DAVENPORT**

ADDED! Latest Gaiety British News

**CATHAY** GRAND OPENING TO-DAY  
Daily at 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**  
IN TECHNICOLOR

**NELSON EDDY**  
**SUSANNA FOSTER**  
**CLAUDE RAINS**  
**EDGAR BARRIER**  
**ALDO CARILLO**  
**IANE BARBAR**  
**1 TONNED SINGING**  
**OFFICE FIELD NUME CROMIN**

TO-MORROW  
"DU BARRY WAS A LADY"  
Starring: **RED SKELTON • LUCILLE BALL**  
In Technicolor

**ORIENTAL**  
SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.15—9.15 P.M.  
THE MOST AMAZING OF ALL TARZAN PICTURES!

**TARZAN AND THE AMAZONS**  
How and amazing Tarzan thrills... as he fights to guard the fabulous, secret Amazon kingdom from the grasp of scheming intruders!

**Edgar Rice Burroughs**  
**WEISSMULLER • JOYCE SHEPHERD**  
**HENRY STEPHENSON • MADAME MARIA DUSPENSKY**  
**BARTON MACLANE • DON DOUGLAS**

**SISTERS THEATRE**  
COMBINED SERVICES ENTERTAINMENT Presents

**"XMAS CRACKERS"**  
A BUMPER MUSICAL SHOW  
Featuring  
**JIMMY PICKARD'S CHINESE SYNCOPATORS**  
with  
**MARIE ERLEIGH**  
**RAE HAMMOND OTTO FOORMAN**  
and  
**THE SWING BAND**  
of the  
**2nd Bn., W. YORKSHIRE REGT.**  
ALL THIS WEEK AT 7.30 P.M.  
(NO PERFORMANCE ON XMAS DAY)  
BOOKING HOURS: 12 n.m.—2 p.m. 4 p.m.—6.30 p.m.  
TELEPHONE: 58335.

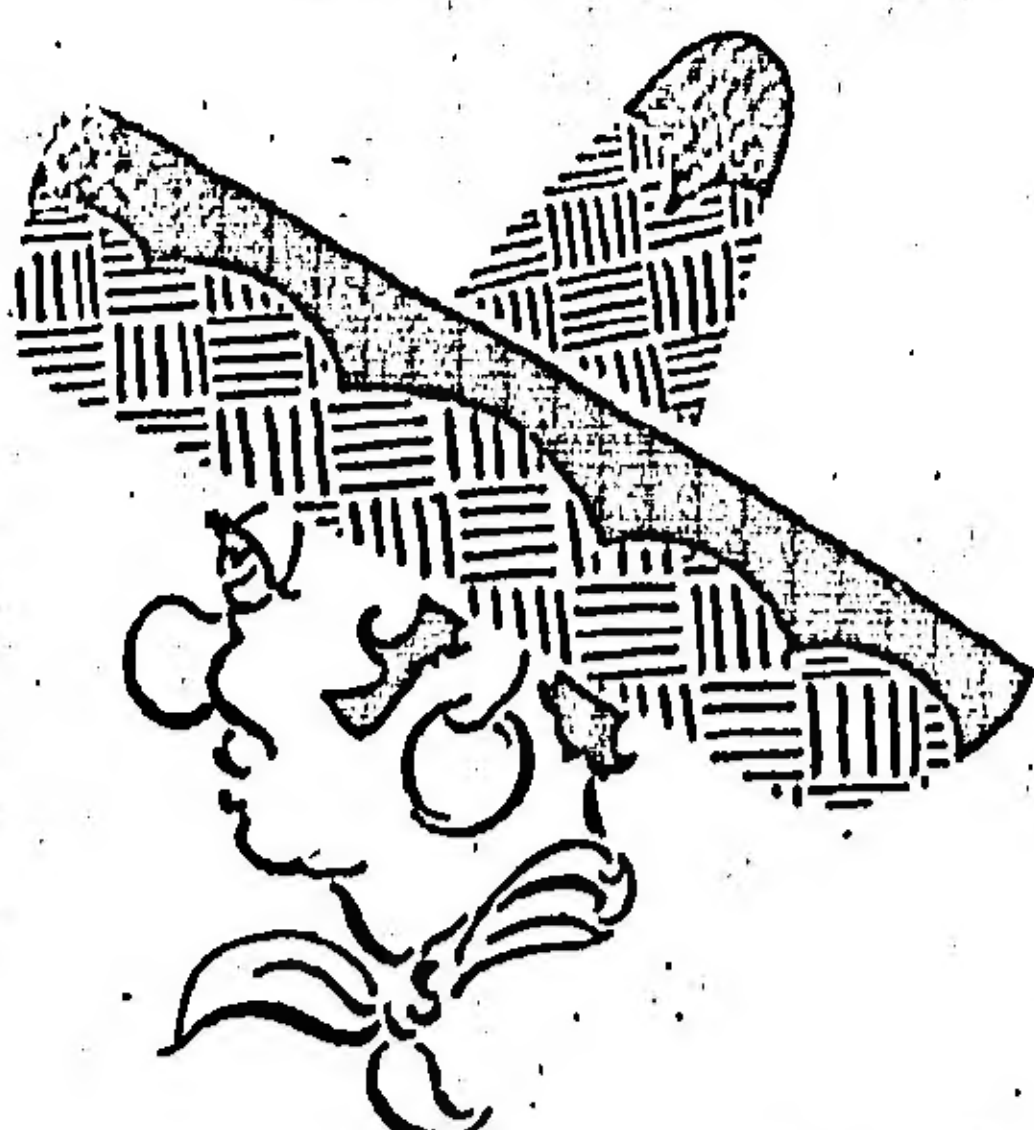
## SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I can remember hearing my father and his father before him saying the country was going to the dogs, but it ain't quite there yet!"



## TO-MORROW



COCKTAIL BAR  
8TH FLOOR  
GLOUCESTER HOTEL

**Happy Christmas  
and  
Prosperous New Year**

**LEUNG YUK KEE (EST. 1911)**  
WOOLLEN & WORSTED PIECE-GOODS  
99 WELLINGTON ST. TEL. 25327

ATOMIC ENERGY IN  
CANCER RESEARCH

Chicago, Dec. 22. Chicago University, where the atomic bomb was born four years ago, said it would attempt to find the cause and cure of cancer by expanding its research programme and by using an increased supply of radioactive materials supplied by atomic piles.

President E. C. Colwell said the expanded cancer programme would contemplate a capital fund of \$4,000,000, and would make research on cancer one of the university's major projects.—United Press.

MOVE TO CONSIDER  
OUSTING OF BILBO

Washington, Dec. 22. The Senate Republican Steering Committee headed by Senator Robert H. Taft planned today for a special report on whether Senator Theodore ("The Man") Bilbo should be ousted from the Senate. There was little doubt that Senator Ferguson would recommend the ouster.

Bilbo, Senator from Mississippi, has been accused of accepting money for favouritism in awarding war contracts and for favours to dope addicts.—United Press.

Mallet Leaving  
Madrid  
To-Morrow

Madrid, Dec. 22. The British Embassy announced today that Ambassador Sir Victor Mallet was scheduled to leave for London on Tuesday. His departure will mark the British compliance with the United Nations decision that heads of diplomatic missions to Spain should be withdrawn.—United Press.

## Cuban Delegate Assails UNO

Washington, Dec. 22. Guillermo Belt, Cuban Ambassador to the United States and chief of his country's United Nations delegation, assailed the United Nations Assembly action on Spain as a "manoeuvre of international Communism." The Assembly called upon members to withdraw diplomatic recognition from the Franco regime. Belt called this a move to overthrow one of the three regimes in Europe which, according to Mr. Manulsky, the Ukrainian delegate, do not allow Communism within their borders.—Associated Press.

Conscription In  
Shanghai To  
Take Place Soon

Shanghai, Dec. 22. The first conscription in Shanghai will take place soon, affecting some 10,000 youths who will serve two to three years, declared Maj-Gen Fu Cheng-mo, first Commander of the Shanghai Conscription Divisional Command.

Although he declined to divulge the measures governing conscription, Gen Fu estimated that about one per cent of the population of Shanghai fell under the conscription age range. However, he said that with the exception of those physically unfit about 10,000 would be conscripted by lot.

Gen Fu said the terms of service for an ordinary soldier was two years and for a mechanized soldier three years.—United Press.

REBELS OUSTED  
FROM JAO

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 22. Dispatches from Trujillo said that a group of 1,000 rebels had been forced out of their stronghold in Jao by Government troops and fled to the mountains.—Associated Press.

FAILURE OF ROCKET  
TESTS DENIED

White Sands, New Mexico, Dec. 22. Army Ordnance officials at White Sands Proving Grounds denied reports that an attempt to launch a German V-2 rocket actually failed. Ordnance officials discounted the statement of scientist James A. Van Allen of Johns Hopkins University that the mechanism to fire the rocket from the rocket warhead had failed to function.—United Press.



**LEST WE FORGET**—This picture, taken a few days ago, is of the lower western part of Stanley Cemetery. Here, underneath these plain crosses, lie many Hongkong residents who gave their lives to defend the Colony, were executed by the Japanese or died through privation during internment. It is now a hallowed place of homage.

Search For Air  
Crews Lost In  
Arctic

London, Dec. 21. For 10 months, search officers of the Royal Air Force have been making long and hazardous voyages in small boats and climbing mountains over a 200 miles area within the Arctic circle in an effort to find the Arctic aircrew and aircraft lost and missing over and off the coast of Norway during the war. Submarines with detectors were used to locate sunken aircraft which have been raised and the crew recovered. The Officers were members of the Mission of Research and Enquiry Service Organisation set up by the Air Ministry as soon as the end of hostilities permitted.—Reuter.

CHINA WANTS SIX  
NAZIS KEPT IN  
COUNTRY

Nanking, Dec. 22. The Chinese government will insist on a small number of Germans—perhaps six—to be kept in the repatriation list but probably will deport them later when the government is through with them, a Foreign Office source said.

The source deplores the misunderstanding of United States authorities who determined to repatriate the Nazis as soon as possible but he pointed out that China as a sovereign nation has complete right to act as she pleases.

He did not give the reasons for their retention but explained that the government needs the Nazis for certain purposes which are impossible to divulge.

Informed sources said the alleged Foreign Office secrecy on this matter is the principal cause of friction between the United States and China since the Americans consider such "protection" an unfriendly act and want to deport the Nazis.—United Press.

LUKEWARM BURMESE  
WELCOME TO  
BRITISH INVITATION

Rangoon, Dec. 22. The Burmese Press this morning offered a lukewarm welcome to the British Government's invitation to Burmese Ministers to visit London and discuss the Burma situation.—Associated Press.

## CAUSTIC U.S. COMMENT

New York, Dec. 22. The New York Times said in an editorial today: "The bitter truth is that Britain is too weak to enforce a programme either in Burma or India. She cannot hold her empire together through any means except persuasion. If that fails she must retreat."

"It has already failed in India, but even a British retreat there is cut off by religious conflict between the Moslems and Hindus which threatens civil war. In Burma at least there is no such conflict. This should ease the coming negotiations and prevent an impasse like India. Indo-China is a hopeless war."

"France also is far too weak to hold her eastern domain in subjection. Meanwhile, China staggers helplessly toward an all-out civil war of her own."

MARSEILLES MURDER  
ARREST BY POLICE

Paris, Dec. 22. Marseilles Police have arrested a man whom they allege is the leader of a gang which murdered the Norwegian consul in Marseilles in his home early this month.—Reuter.

## NOTICE

## H. K. S. P. C.

The Executive Committee of The Hongkong Society for the Protection of Children will meet on Tuesday, December 24.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7 at the usual time and place.

M. BARKER  
Hon. General Secretary.

Suggestion For  
Delhi Round  
Table Talks

London, Dec. 21. A round-table conference of Indians—without British representation—comprising all Indian political, communal and princely elements to be held in New Delhi during the recess of the Constituent Assembly has been suggested by Indian political quarters in London, it was learned today.

No British elements, official or otherwise, would be invited and the intention is to bring the rival Indian factions together in a final effort without third party mediation to settle India's future constitution.

The conference of Indians in New Delhi would conform with the Indian leaders' reiterated insistence that there should be no outside interference.

Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly in New Delhi agreed to defer Nehru's resolution calling for an independent Indian Republic until January 20. The Assembly's chairman, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, further intimated it was hoped by that time the Muslim League would have retracted its decision to boycott the Assembly.

Additional indication of the intention to call an Indian round-table conference was seen in the Constituent Assembly's rule of procedure laid down yesterday providing that the preliminary constitution must be referred to the Provincial and State Legislatures for their views and comments.

No definite date for the conference has been set but the protagonists stressed that such a conference could prove effective only if convened before the Constituent Assembly re-assembles on January 20.—United Press.

## No Moslem Council Meeting

Karachi, Dec. 21. Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, President of the Muslim League, declared at a press conference today: "Unless and until Congress unequivocally accepts the interpretation, which has been categorically and definitely put by the British Government in their statement of December 8 on the Cabinet Mission plan of May 16—there is no occasion for me to call a meeting of the Muslim League Council for revising its previous decision to boycott the Constituent Assembly."—Reuter.

## Gandhi's Experiment

Calcutta, Dec. 21. Mohandas K. Gandhi, will tour riot-ravaged villages of East Bengal on foot in the "greatest experiment of my life" in the near future, it was learned today.

The projected tour probably will begin shortly after Gandhi meets the Congress Party leader, Pandit Nehru, who is scheduled to visit Srirampur in late this month.

Reiterating his determination to succeed in his "experiment" to quell communal strife, Gandhi said: "If need be, I will leave my bones in East Bengal for it I fail in East Bengal I will not succeed anywhere else."

Many of the villages on his itinerary are now occupied only by Muslims. The Hindu population having evacuated during the communal outbreaks.—United Press.

## Congress-Moslem Differences

New Delhi, Dec. 21. The All-India Congress Party Working Committee today debated whether or not they should adhere to the British Government's statement of December 8 laying down that any differences between the Congress Party and the Muslim League should be referred to a Federal Court.

Reliable sources said that today's session of the Working Committee reversed the earlier decision to refer differences in interpretation to a Federal Court. The second meeting of the Committee would decide what attitude would be adopted, and it was stressed that so far there had been neither rejection nor acceptance of the December 8 statement.

The Constituent Assembly approved the setting up of a committee of six to meet representatives of the Indian States to formulate a method of selecting and distributing the 93 seats in the Assembly now empty and reserved for the States. The committee includes Pandit Nehru, leader of the Congress Party, and Sardar Patel who will negotiate with the committee chosen by the Chamber of Princes and afterwards submit their findings to the Constituent Assembly.—United Press.

## COMMONS RECESSES

London, Dec. 22. The House of Commons, after 45 days in session, began its month's Christmas recess yesterday.—Associated Press.

Coal Promised  
For Austin  
Motor Car Co

London, Dec. 22. Mr. Raymond Blackburn, Labourite Member of Parliament, announced he had received assurances from the Ministry of Fuel and Power that coal needed for continued operations at the Austin Motor Car Company works in Birmingham would be provided this week.

The Austin Company announced last night that it would be forced to close "indefinitely" on Tuesday for lack of fuel but the Ministry quickly reported it had "measures in hand" to meet the situation.

The possible Austin shutdown, which would mean idleness for 17,000 workers, was regarded by some forecasters as the first of a series of industrial suspensions forced by the coal shortage, but the Ministry declared: "If every firm practices economy in fuel consumption, there is no reason why there should be a complete stoppage."—Associated Press.

First Australian  
Director Of  
Reuters Named

Sydney, Dec. 22. The Board of the Australian Associated Press has nominated Mr. R. A. G. Henderson as the first Australian Director of Reuters. Mr. Henderson will represent the interests of the Australian and New Zealand papers on the Reuters Board and arrangements are now being made for closer working between the Australian A. P. and the New Zealand Press Association.

Mr. Henderson is the General Manager of the Sydney Morning Herald, Chairman of the Australian Associated Presses and Chairman of the Australian Newspaper Proprietors Association.

Sir Keith Murdoch has been appointed the first Australian trustee of Reuters.

A New Zealand trustee will be appointed after the annual general meeting of the New Zealand Press Association.—Reuter.

## Great Step Forward

London, Dec. 22. Mr. Kent Cooper, General Manager and Executive Director of the Associated Press, the great American co-operatively-owned non-profit making Press Association, in a statement to-night said: "The announcement by the Board of Reuters to the effect that the Australian Associated Press has joined the ownership of Reuters, a non-profit making agency, is a great step forward in Empire journalism. Both Reuters and the Australian Associated Press are to be congratulated."—Reuter.

VIET NAMHSE GOVT.  
FLEES FROM HANOI

(Continued from Page 1)

Eurasian civilians were killed or are missing.—United Press.

## Violent Fighting At Hue

Salgon, Dec. 21. Violent fighting at Hue, capital of Annam in French Indo-China, was reported by French sources.

The Viet Namhse attack, supported by mortar fire, was repulsed and most of the French civilians in the town stayed, though the French quarter of Hue has not been cleared yet.

The French were isolated by attacking Viet Namhse in the towns of Nam Dinh and Hai Duong, but it was claimed that they were holding their positions.—Associated Press.

## Comment In America

New York, Dec. 22. The New York Herald Tribune said in an editorial today: "The French haven't shown in the past, nor are they now demonstrating, much capacity for dealing with the nationalist aspirations of the people of Asia. In the end the French may lose everything they possess in Indo-China. Their attitude shows far less understanding of what is happening in Asia than that of the British Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, who has announced the British intention to give Burma independence."

"The French attitude is also less wise than that of the Dutch Parliament, which has just approved a draft agreement to establish a United States of Indonesia."

"It is apparent the British and Dutch sacrifices, made on the basis of the knowledge that what is inevitable in Asia may be a smaller sacrifice in the end, are wiser than those of the French."—United Press.

SHANGHAI GOLD  
QUOTATIONS

Shanghai, Dec. 22. The gold bar quotations today shot up to N\$360,000 and the unofficial United States dollar rate soared to N\$7,300 in a spectacular upturn actuated by an intense wave of speculative buying in the midst of persistent bullish rumours.

The entire market was in a state of great expectancy and confusion in view of a rumoured rate change.—United Press.

BITTER COLD  
BRINGS  
SUFFERING

London, Dec. 22. Bitter cold brought suffering to Europe's homeless and slowed movement of food to the hungry. Temperatures sank to zero in Germany, five below in northern France and 10 in Belgium. It was 15 in England.

On the Mediterranean, subfreezing weather gripped Nice, (France) and Turin, (Italy). Torrential rains swept Italy, washing out two bridges near Turin, and tying up traffic for an expected five days.—Associated Press.

"Meet Australia"  
Exhibition Ends  
Year-Old Tour

"Meet Australia", the travelling exhibition designed and produced by Britain's Central Office of Information in collaboration with the Australian Government, has ended its tour of 10 principal United Kingdom cities after being seen by 269,795 visitors.

The tour opened at Bristol in December, 1945, and since that time has been shown in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Southampton, Birmingham, Leeds, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

This exhibition was the second in the series of shows designed to give comprehensive and interesting information about the British Empire and Colonies, the "Meet Canada" Exhibition, which ended its tour at Hastings in June, 1946, being the first in this series.

"Meet Australia", occupied about 4,000 square feet of floor space and showed by means of models, dioramas, photographs and a "talking-map" the living conditions and aspirations of the Australian people. Outstanding aspects of Australian life were depicted, including the characteristics of her climate, scenery, towns and agriculture, and sections were devoted to Australia's notable war contribution and industrial progress.

GEN LI TSUNG-JEN  
WARNS REDS

Peiping, Dec. 22. After weeks of political discussion, Chinese government and Communist leaders declared yesterday that full scale resumption of the civil war was imminent.

General Li Tsung-jen, Director of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Peiping headquarters, said that Government armies would resume the offensive if the Communists continue to disregard the generalissimo's cease fire order.—Associated Press.

Communist Success. Peiping, Dec. 22. Communist troops were reported to have captured 30 towns bordering the Peiping-Mukden railway near Anting, which is 17 miles south-east of Peiping. Ten Communist regiments were said to have participated in this stage of the thrust, yet in the Peiping sector.—United Press.

British Consulate  
At Taipei

Taipei, Dec. 22. The British Government, through the consent of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will shortly re-establish a Consular office in Taiwan.

It is learned that the new British Consul has arrived at Keelung, and will proceed to Taipei to-morrow, where the Consulate will be set up.—Central News.

Young Roosevelt  
Leaves Moscow

Moscow, Dec. 22. Elliott Roosevelt and his wife left Moscow for the United States, ending his visit in the Soviet Union, capped by his interview on Saturday with Generalissimo Josef Stalin.—Associated Press.

PRINCE SAUD TO  
VISIT AMERICA

Cairo, Dec. 22. Crown Prince Saud of Saudi Arabia, has accepted President Truman's invitation to visit the United States, and will leave on January 10, the Saudi Arabian Legation in Cairo announced.—Associated Press.

## TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

ZDW on 645 ke from 12.30-1.15, 6.50-7.50, and 9-11 p.m. also on 12.25, 6.50-7.50, and 9-11 p.m. Variety: 7, London Relay; News: 7.15, Donald Peers "Cavalier of Song"; 7.30, Studio: 8, "Music Time"; 8.50, "Old Times" (re-broadcast); 9, London Relay; News: 9.05, Lily Pons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra; 9.50, London Relay; "Navy Mixture" presents its Christmas Edition of "The Jewel and Warts Show" (last of the "All" from the Naval Barracks Theatre Chatham, Kent); 10, "Something for Everybody" (Music for all Ages); 11, Close down.

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C. M. C.  
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